

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 141534Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6327

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 4590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MX, AR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO OUSTING OF MEXICAN NEWSPAPER EXCELSIOR
LEADERSHIP

REF: MEXICO 8849

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCERNIBLE REACTION IN GOA TO EXCELSIOR
PURGE, AND INCIDENT HAS HAD LITTLE APPARENT IMPACT ON PUBLIC.
WITH ONE SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTION, ARGENTINE PRESS REACTION TO
EXCELSIOR'S TROUBLES HAS BEEN LIGHT AND LIMITED TO FACTUAL
WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS.

2. LA PRENSA (INDEPENDENT, CONSERVATIVE) USED THIS INCIDENT
TO LAMENT ONCE AGAIN THE CONSTANT INTRUSIONS ON FREEDOM OF
PRESS IN HEMISPHERE. JULY 11 EDITORIAL, TITLED "EXCELSIOR'S
DIFFICULTIES," AFFIRMED THAT "VIRTUAL OUSTER" OF EDITOR
JULIO SCHERER POSED "THE THREAT OF MAKING ONE OF MEXICAN
JOURNALISM'S MOST IMPORTANT VOICES CHANGE ITS ORIENTATION."
AFTER DESCRIBING NATURE OF CONFLICT, LA PRENSA REFLECTED THAT
"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS OF EXISTENCE THAT EXCELSIOR
HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO CENSORSHIP. WE FEAR THAT FROM NOW ON
ITS TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENT LINE WILL FACE SERIOUS OBSTACLES."
LA PRENSA CONCLUDED: "NO ONE IS IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT
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FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN OUR HEMISPHERE IS TODAY BEING THREATENED

BY ALL KINDS OF TRAPS AND ENCROACHMENTS. THE REPREHENSIBLE
CASE OF INTERFERENCE BY UNESCO (SAN JOSE COMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE) SEEKING TO OBTAIN FOR THIS PART OF THE WORLD ONLY,
LAWS RESTRICTING THIS FREEDOM, IS ENOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE THE
EXISTENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL PLOT AIMED AT RESTRICTING
JOURNALISTIC INDEPENDENCE THE WAY TOTALITARIAN REGIMES DO"

3. IN THE ONLY OTHER NOTEWORTHY COMMENTARY, LEADING ARGENTINE
DAILY LA NACION (INDEPENDENT, CONSERVATIVE) JULY 13 PUBLISHED
THE ALAN RIDING STORY FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTING
SCHERER'S OUSTER AND EXCELSIOR'S NEW LOOK.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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